



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

For immediate release

Media Release

Canada's Dental Hygienists Call on Federal Government to Continue Investments in Affordable Oral Health Care

February 27, 2025 (OTTAWA) — At a time when Canadians are navigating an ongoing cost-of-living crisis amidst tariff threats from the Trump administration, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is calling on the federal government to continue investing in affordable, preventive oral health care. While dealing with such political and economic uncertainty, Canadians should not also have to worry about access to essential health care.

“We know that improving access to oral health care is a good thing for Canadians and our economy,” says Ondina Love, chief executive officer of CDHA. Federal investments in oral health care in Canada have several positive impacts on the economy:

- **Improved public health:** By increasing access to oral health care, the government helps prevent oral conditions that can lead to more serious and costly health problems.
- **Increased productivity:** Better oral health leads to fewer sick days and higher worker productivity. Healthy employees are more likely to perform better and contribute positively to the economy.
- **Job creation:** Investments in oral health care can create jobs in the sector, including positions for dentists, dental hygienists, and support staff. These employment opportunities stimulate economic growth.
- **Support for vulnerable populations:** Programs such as the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) provide essential services to low-income families and seniors, improving their quality of life and enabling them to participate more fully in the economy.
- **Cost savings:** Preventive oral health care can save money in the long run by reducing the need for expensive emergency treatments and hospital visits.

Overall, federal investment in oral health care enhances public health and supports economic stability and growth in Canada.

As primary care providers, dental hygienists play a key role in delivering the care Canadians need and preventing and treating oral diseases through evidence-informed practice. Federal investment in affordable, accessible oral health care supports Canadians, especially vulnerable populations and those living in rural and remote communities. Dental hygienists across the country see the positive results first-hand.

“I have provided treatment to many patients who are covered by the CDCP,” shares Alexandra Sheppard, registered dental hygienist and president of CDHA. “These patients, especially those with a significant amount of dental disease, are truly grateful for this national plan.” Dental hygienists know that caries, severe periodontitis, abscesses, and other conditions that negatively impact a patient’s overall health are preventable, but affordability is too often a barrier to care. “The coverage provided by the CDCP is significantly enhancing the overall health of the Canadian population every day and must be continued,” adds Sheppard.

CDHA is committed to working with the federal government to ensure all people living in Canada receive preventive oral health care.

About the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA):

CDHA is the national voice of dental hygienists in Canada. Representing nearly 34,000 dental hygienists across the country, CDHA advocates for the advancement and promotion of the dental hygiene profession while maintaining a commitment to the public’s oral health. Dental hygiene is the sixth largest regulated health profession in Canada with professionals working in various settings, including [independent dental hygiene practice](#), with people of all ages, addressing issues related to oral health. For more information on oral health, visit [dentalhygienecanada.ca](#). For more information on the work of CDHA, visit [cdha.ca](#).

Media Contact

Angie D’Aoust, Director of Marketing and Communications
613-878-3607
adaoust@cdha.ca